

REMARKS

Claims 1-43 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-43 stand rejected. Claims 1-16, 19-30, 32-40 and 42 have been amended herein and Claims 40 and 43 have been cancelled herein. New Claims 44 and 45 have been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the present amendments and following remarks. The above amendments and following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action and to render all claims at issue patentably distinct over the references cited.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-43 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Kapusnik et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,452,839). This rejection is respectfully traversed. It is believed that the originally filed claims are patentably distinct over the cited reference. Notwithstanding, independent Claim 1 has been amended to state that the positioner is elongated greater than and generally parallel to an externally exposed portion of the element holder. Support for this amendment can be found with Applicants' originally filed Figure 1 and the originally filed specification at Paragraph Nos. [0018] and [0029]. The other revisions in this independent claim are merely grammatical in nature and should not limit a full scope of equivalents when interpreted. In contrast, the cited reference does not disclose the presently claimed combination of features, especially as amended.

Independent Claim 15 has been amended to state that the gauge includes a through hole operably receiving the holder, with the gauge further including a receiver having a bottom operably contacting the positioner, and a receiver being adjacent the hole. Support for this amendment can be found within Applicants' originally filed Figure

1 and the originally filed specification at Paragraph Nos. [0031] and [0032]. The other amendments to this independent claim are merely grammatical in nature and should not affect or limit the full range of equivalents when interpreted. In contrast, the cited reference does not disclose the presently claimed combination of features, especially as amended.

Independent Claim 29 has been amended to add steps d-h. Support for this amendment can be found in the originally filed specification at Paragraph No. [0033]. The other amendments to this claim have merely been made to improve grammar and should not limit the full range of equivalents otherwise available. In contrast, the cited reference does not teach the claimed combination of features, especially as amended.

Furthermore, the cited reference does not disclose the features of all of the dependent claims, especially as amended. Support for these dependent claim amendments can be found throughout the originally filed figures and detailed description.

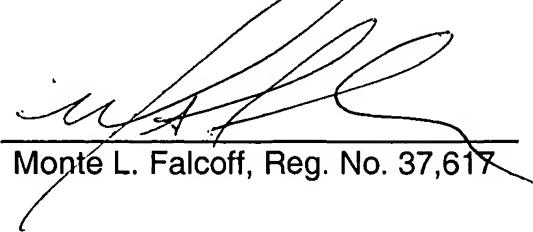
Finally, the newly added claims are patentable over the cited reference. The cited reference does not teach the presently claimed combination of features, which should all be given their full range of equivalents when interpreted. Support for these new claims can be found within the originally filed Figures 1 and especially 2, as well as within the originally filed specification at Paragraph Nos. [0034] and [0035]. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the instant rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the instant amendments, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is requested that the Examiner pass the case to issue at his earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Sept. 29, 2005

By:


Monte L. Falcoff, Reg. No. 37,617

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

MLF/cmg